



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

JAN 14 2010

Dear Tribal Leader:

As a follow-up to previous letters sent to tribal leaders dated April 23, 2009, and August 31, 2009, we are providing an update regarding the Tax-Credit Bonding Program.

The application deadline for the first \$200 million tranche was November 15, 2009. Tribes now have the opportunity to submit an application during the second allocation period, which began on November 16, 2009, with an application deadline of March 15, 2010.

The October 30, 2009, Federal Register Notice contains a summary of the Tax-Credit Bonding Program and specific guidelines for applying for an allocation. A copy of the Federal Register Notice is enclosed for your reference.

I encourage eligible tribes to apply for an allocation of this bonding authority to assist tribal governments in reducing the cost of loans or bonds for construction, rehabilitation, and repair of schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is important to recognize the bonding authorization is not an appropriation of Federal money or a loan guarantee. Tribes will be responsible for paying their bonded obligations.

Sincerely,

Larry Echo Hawk  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure